

From: RW Hawkins
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing in regards to the Microsoft settlement. I have been an avid computer user all my life and have seen good technologies come and go. That is just the facts of life. I am extremely discouraged however when large monopolies such as Microsoft make it all but impossible for the little guys to have any chance of success.

In particular Microsoft's historical actions to make their software incompatible such as in the 1996 Caldera v. Microsoft example is disheartening. I hope one day to be a member of a successful computer company that gives users total choice over their hardware, software and applications. I foresee a future where this is impossible if some measures are not taken against Microsoft.

Additionally I see Microsoft moving into areas where they have not been before in order to control the games our kids play, the music we listen to even the photographs we take. As a photographer I am shocked about the new digital photography software they have introduced in Windows XP for free that will do to Kodak what Internet Explorer did to Netscape, all but destroy it.

I hope you will listen to my opinions in calling for a remedy that somehow levels the playing field for us "small guys". Any settlement must have some aspect of punishment for past regressions but more importantly imposed controls to prevent Microsoft from doing what they have done in the past in today's very different and changing environment.

Thank you,

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